

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-3, 9-11 and 14 as indicated.

Please cancel Claims 8, 13 and 18 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

1. (Currently amended) An object recognition system comprising:

a visible light source;

a light source controller configured to control an illumination level of ~~a~~ said visible light source in response to ambient light to achieve contrast on a human face to capture an image thereof;

a camera configured to capture ~~an~~ said image of an object said human face illuminated by said visible light source; and

a computer configured to compare data representative of said image to stored image data.

2. (Currently amended) The object recognition system of claim 1, wherein said light source controller is configured to establish a first illumination level for said visible light source when ~~said ambient light in an area proximate to said human face~~ is at a first ambient light level, and a second illumination level for said visible light source when said ambient light is at a second ambient light level, wherein said first illumination level is higher than said second illumination level, and wherein said first ambient light level is higher than said second ambient light level.

3. (Currently amended) The object recognition system of claim 1, wherein said light source controller comprises a light sensor, and wherein said light source controller is configured to control an illumination level of said visible light source in response to a level of ~~said~~ ambient light imparted on said light sensor.

4. (Original) The object recognition system of claim 3, wherein said light source controller comprises a switch and wherein said level of said ambient light imparted on said light sensor controls a state of said switch to control said illumination level of said light source.

5. (Original) The object recognition system of claim 4, wherein said controller further comprises at least one relay, and wherein said state of said switch controls a state of said at least one relay to control said illumination level of said light source.

6. (Original) The object recognition system of claim 4, wherein said controller further comprises a dimmer, and wherein said state of said switch controls a resistance of said dimmer to control said illumination level of said light source.

7. (Original) The object recognition system of claim 4, wherein said switch comprises a transistor.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of illuminating ~~an object~~ a human face in an object recognition system, said method comprising:

controlling an illumination level of a visible light source directed toward said ~~object~~ human face ~~in response to an ambient light level~~ to achieve contrast on said human face to capture an image thereof.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said illumination level of said visible light source is controlled to achieve a first level when ~~said~~ an ambient light level in an area proximate to said human face is greater than a predetermined light level.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said illumination level of said visible light source is controlled to achieve a second level when said ambient light level is less than said predetermined light level.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said first level is greater than said second level.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A method of controlling access of ~~an object~~ a person to a secure area, said method comprising:  
detecting an ambient light level in an area proximate to a face of said person;  
setting an illumination level for said ~~object in response to said ambient light level~~ face, the illumination level sufficient to achieve contrast on said face to capture an image thereof;  
illuminating said ~~object~~ face at said illumination level;  
operating a camera to capture an image of at least a portion of said face ~~object~~;  
comparing data representative of said image to stored image data; and  
allowing access of said ~~object~~ person to said secure area in response to said comparing of said image to said stored image data.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said illumination level is set at a first level when said ambient light level is greater than a predetermined light level.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said illumination level is set at a second level when said ambient light level is less than said predetermined light level.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said first level is greater than said second level.

18. (Cancelled)